April 30, 2008

Dear Alisa,

Thanks for the nifty letter, and the good news that you can be with us in Michigan. It's been a long time. We do miss you and truly enjoy your letters and your crafty stationary. You certainly have a full plate and the talent to handle it. God is good.

You are right to be fed up with the abject desperation of modernism's humanistic godless world view. The (post) modern excessive self centeredness and extreme subjectivism (it is all about "me") borders on solipsism. Francis Schaeffer wrote an excellent critique and history of humanistic despair in his book, "The God Who Is There". Chapters I and II give an account of the failure of Humanistic "antiphilosophy" to even relate to reality – let along understand it. I highly recommend it – it's available in any library, bookstore or on Amazon.

To quote Schaeffer (page 17): "humanism" in the inclusive sense, is a system whereby man, tries rationally to build out from himself, having only man as his integration point, to find all knowledge, meaning and value."

However, mankind did not create the universe. Man must find its (and his) meaning and value outside of himself. Réne Descarte ("I think, therefore I am") had it backwards. We did not create ourselves. The truth is, "I am, therefore I (can) think!" Mankind is not a self contained or self sustained system or being. His meaning and existence come from outside himself.

Philosopher, mathematician, Kurt Gödell discovered a theorem in 1931 and was awarded a Nobel Prize for it (1936?). It said: every (mathematical) system has within it true propositions that cannot be proven within the system. The proof must come from outside the system.

(Post) modernism says the universe (creation) is a closed system. The Christian world view recognizes that the universe was created (in an instant) by God and that mankind was made (over time) by God from the earth (dust) (Genesis 2:7) All life is from God, and meaning, wisdom, purpose and Truth are revealed by God not by man, although man may discover it. Creation is an open system and God is outside it, but He can enter into it i.e., Holy Spirit or Jesus Christ.

Christianity recognizes two major forms of God's revelations. One is the general revelation seen and experienced in the physical creation (matter) – the universe. The second form is special revelation directly given by Jesus Christ – God incarnate on earth – and God's truth in the scriptures.

Science looks for the truth by studying the natural, physical, creation. Theology seeks truth by studying the super natural creator. I believe both are seeking the same truth. The two aspects of reality, spiritual (super natural) and physical (nature) are in concert with true truth. The conflict occurs when man's (our) will (free will) rejects God's will, and strives to "do it my way". Thus, man rejects God's truth, and tries to create man's own (idea) of reality which fails and leads to despair. True Truth says, "Respect (fear) for God is the beginning of wisdom."

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) gained fame for asking challenging questions, but his answers were not helpful. He thought everything was matter – the physical – as if mind does not exist, but is only a result of physical sensations.

This was countered by George Berkeley (1685-1753) who denied the existence of matter with a number of ingenious arguments. Berkeley said material objects only exist by being perceived by the mind.

The present answer to both Hobbes & Berkeley is: "no matter, never mind".

Again, science seeks the truth from the bottom up – from the natural laws of the physical. Theology seeks the truth from the top down – from the super natural and spiritual reality. Both realities exist. Human kind, mankind, is the bridge (in God's image) between them. We have one foot in the physical and the other in the spiritual. Jesus Christ is the bridge between man and the Creator. Ultimate Reality is God.

More recent work in particle physics, quantum theory and string theory, suggests that matter (m) and energy (E), which are aspects of the same stuff, ($E = mc^2$) and also are the same as information (ų = frequency wave of a particle, m). In 1926 Prince Lewis DeBroglei discovered the formula: $\underline{ųħ = mc^2}$ and won a Nobel Prize (1929).

E is energy

m is mass of a particle

c is the speed of light

ų is Greek letter Nu stands for frequency (information) of a wave length

ħ is Plank's constant (very small)

Thus we have: $E = mc^2$ and $ųħ = mc^2$

Therefore $E = ųħ = mc^2$

Indicating that energy, information, and matter are three different manifestations of the same basic stuff – the "arche" of Greek philosophy.

God, the Word, spoke information, which became energy (photons) – Big Bang – which expanded and cooled down and some energy became matter (quarks).

Thus the age old concept (Theology) that the universe was created "Ex Nihilo" – "God plus nothing = creation seems verified by Scientific Study.

I am enclosing a few items:

1) 4 pages from G. Schroeder's "The Hidden Face of God"
2) Letter from me to Mary Jean (Oct. 1950) at college – concerning Atheistic humanism – It has been around a long time.)
3) A short article defining "tolerance" as a non virtue. If something is good we do not have to tolerate it – we embrace it.